

## Margarita Salas returns to the CIB

**Enrique J. de la Rosa**

*Director at the CIB Margarita Salas*

Margarita Salas left us on November 7, 2019. She had a long scientific career that began at the Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas (Center for Biological Research; CIB-CSIC) and ended at the Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa (Center for Molecular Biology; CBMSO-CSIC-UAM), where she worked in her laboratory until shortly before her death, as surely was her wish.

On November 21, our president Rosa Menéndez signed off on a resolution to change the name of the CIB, which will henceforth be known as the CIB Margarita Salas. It took just 2 weeks to fulfil the necessary formalities, an effort that Margarita, as both an individual and a scientist, more than deserved.

Throughout her career, Margarita participated in all the types of work that we who dedicate our lives to science can and, in my opinion, should undertake. The fruitful line of basic research that she established based on a model system, the *Bacillus subtilis* bacteriophage *Phi29*, made her a pioneer of molecular biology in Spain. She was an excellent teacher to her doctoral and postdoctoral students, and created an outstanding scientific school. She did not shy away from the transfer of knowledge, participating in the creation and subsequent commercialization of an essential tool for genome sequencing, which was the best known patent to emerge from the CSIC. Moreover, she assumed

the social responsibility that comes with being a scientist, serving as a role model for researchers in general and female researchers in particular, underscoring the importance of our work. While there are many other reasons to justify this lasting tribute to Margarita, those outlined above are more than sufficient.

For this inaugural issue of the Newsletter of the CIB Margarita Salas, we have asked our colleagues at the CIB who trained under Margarita to share their memories. In a separate article, we review her career and discuss its impact, highlighting in particular the 13 years that Margarita spent at the CIB at the beginning of her career, a period that we as researchers know crucially influences future trajectories. Margarita's name will be associated with a research center of the CSIC. The center where she began her illustrious scientific career now bears her name in her remembrance.



Credit: European Patent Office